

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-13 HA-05 /077 W

-----063691 202010Z /47

R 201325Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8430

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 0689

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, SF, LT

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN FONMIN'S VISIT TO LESOTHO

REF: A. MASERU 0638, B. MASERU 0655,

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL B, SOUTH AFRICAN FONMIN, PIK BOTHA, VISITED MASERU ON MARCH 16 AT HIS OWN REQUEST. THE MEETING LASTED HALF A DAY.

2. EMBOFF UNEXPECTEDLY MET GOL FONMIN C.D. MOLAPO ON STREET IN FRONT OF MINISTRY DURING AFTERNOON OF MARCH 16. MOLAPO INFORMED EMBOFF THAT HE HAD MET WITH BOTHA DURING THE MORNING TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS OF FURTHER DETERIORATION OF LESOTHO-SOUTH AFRICAN RELATIONS AND THE POSSIBILITIES FOR IMPROVING RELATIONS. IN DESCRIBING THEIR TALK HE SAID QTE I RUBBED IT INTO HIM AND HE RUBBED IT INTO ME UNQTE.

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3. EMBOFF ASKED MOLAPO IF THE TRANSKEI BORDER PROBLEMS WERE DISCUSSED BUT HE WAS EVASIVE AND SAID HE AND BOTHA BOTH KNEW TRANSKEI WAS SAG'S BABY AND THERE WAS NO NEED TO DISCUSS IT. MOLAPO WENT ON TO SAY THAT BOTHA COMPLAINED THAT MATANZIMA HAD BEEN ACTING UNFRIENDLY TOWARDS SAG LATELY.

4. AMERICAN DESK OFFICER OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR. T. CHIMOMBE, INFORMED EMBOFF THAT RECENT ARRESTS OF ALLEGED BOSS AGENTS (REFTEL A) WAS THE MAIN ITEM ON THE AGENDA. ACCORDING TO MRS. CHIMOMBE, BOTH ALEFT WITH THE TWO ARRESTED MEN.

5. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT ON THE BOSS AGENT ISSUE, SAG WON, WHICH MAY BE THE REASON FOR MOLAPO'S CRYPTIC DESCRIPTION OF THEIR MEETING. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL IF THE RELEASE OF THE TWO MEN REFLECTS THEIR INNOCENCE OR GUILT. A PRECEDENT OF INVOLVEMENT OF CABINET MINISTERS IN THIS KIND OF CASE WAS ESTABLISHED WHEN GOL FONMIN VISITED PRETORIA LAST YEAR TO DISCUSS ARRESTS OF LESOTHO CITIZENS IN SOUTH AFRICA. HOWEVER, IT SEEMS UNUSUAL THAT AT THIS TIME, WITH ALL OF SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS, BOTHA SHOULD VISIT MASERU ONLY TO DISCUSS THE ARREST OF TWO ALLEGED BOSS AGENTS. POST WILL REPORT FURTHER DETAILS IF THEY BECOME AVAILABLE. END COMMENT.
STOKES

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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